



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
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October 1, 2003

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FR: Jim Standaert  
Senior Fiscal Analyst

RE: Tax Reform Study Commission

Senate Bill 461, passed during the last legislative session, created a tax reform study committee. The committee is to study tax reform that may include revising the existing tax structure and considering alternative forms of taxation. The purpose of the committee is to conduct a comprehensive examination of taxation in Montana.

The committee shall develop an inventory of taxes imposed at the state and local level, provide analysis that evaluates existing taxes, examine tax expenditures to assess the ongoing merit of each expenditure, and examine alternative methods of taxation from existing sources as well as from new sources of revenue.

The committee is required to submit a written report to the Montana Legislature not later than December 1, 2004. The report will include recommendations and proposed legislation, if any is necessary, to provide tax reform in Montana.

The members include:

- four senators, two from each political party, appointed by the committee on committees;
- four representatives, two appointed by the speaker and two appointed by the minority leader; and
- the following members appointed by the governor:
  - (A) one representative of small business;
  - (B) one representative of large industry;
  - (C) one representative of agriculture; and
  - (D) one representative of labor.

The Committee members are:

Senator Keith Bales, Chair  
Representative Eileen Carney  
Representative Jill Cohenour

Senator Gary Perry  
Representative Jim Peterson  
Jerry Driscoll

Senator Jon Ellingson  
Senator Dan Harrington  
Representative Bob Lake

Ken Morrison  
Mary Whittinghill  
Myles Watts

The committee has met once and outlined broad goals with respect to what will be studied, the data required, and how impacts will be measured. The next meeting of the Committee will be October 14<sup>th</sup>.

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